

Proposed USD 415 Budget Contains Mill Levy Increase

**(KNZA)--The Hiawatha Board of Education is proposing a 2017-18 budget of \$17.4 million that calls for a slight increase in the property tax levy.**

**The Board approved the budget for publication during a special meeting last week on a 4-2 vote. Board members Ian Schuetz and John Wright cast the no votes. Board member Jeff Brockhoff was absent.**

**Superintendent Lonnie Moser said the discussion that led to the 4-2 vote centered on whether or not to reduce the LOB ( local option budget ) from 30% in order to provide relief from the overall mill levy increase of .875 mills.**

**The proposed budget contains an estimated tax rate of 56.317 mills, which is to raise more than \$6.2 million in local taxes.**

**Moser said the increase in taxes levied is due to several factors--a growth in student population, base budget per pupil and valuation.**

**The Board will consider adoption of the budget following a public hearing at their August 14th meeting.**

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